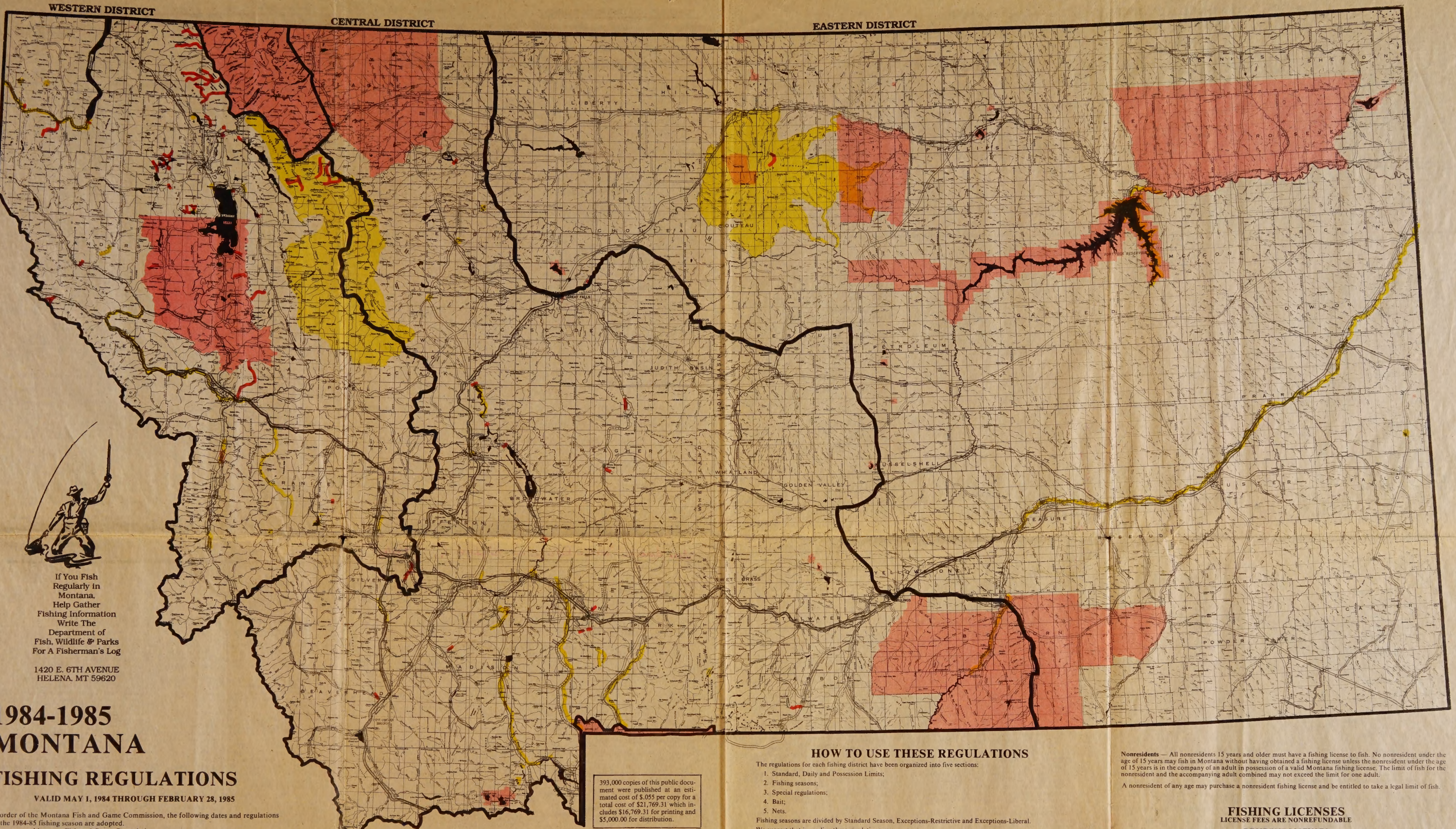

If You Fish
Regularly in
Montana,
Help Gather
Fishing Information
Write The
Department of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
For A Fisherman's Log

1420 E. 6TH AVENUE
HELENA, MT 59620

1984-1985 MONTANA

FISHING REGULATIONS

VALID MAY 1, 1984 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1985

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following dates and regulations for the 1984-85 fishing season are adopted.

Montana Fish and Game Commission
James W. Flynn, Secretary
January 6, 1984

To be in full force and effect through Feb. 28, 1985. All regulations are subject to change by the commission.

COLOR CODES

Colored portions of map indicate special regulations apply there. For details refer to matching colors under regulations by district.

FISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	▬
CLOSED TO FISHING ALL YEAR	🟥
SEASONS, HOURS, LIMITS, TACKLE OR FISHING FROM BOATS MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN STANDARD REGULATIONS FOR DISTRICT, ALSO CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS	🟨
INDIAN RESERVATIONS, NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES (Contact Agency for any Additional Restrictions)	🟥

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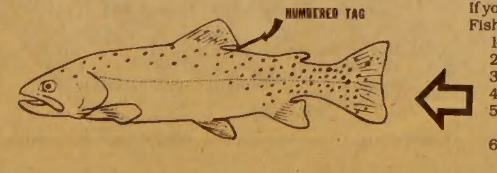
FISHING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT includes all waters in Montana west of the Continental Divide.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT includes all waters in Montana lying east of the Continental Divide (including the Belly and St. Mary Drainages) and waters lying west of the following described boundary: Interstate 15 from Montana-Canadian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, east on said Bypass to Smelter Avenue, east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, south on said street to north bank of Missouri River, east along high water mark of Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton; southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, easterly on State Route 81 to its Junction with U.S. Highway 191 northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87, south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12, west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3, south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 94, northeasterly on Interstate 94 to its junction with Interstate 90, easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the Montana-Wyoming border.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT includes all waters lying east of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District.



If you catch a tagged fish, please advise the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the:

1. Tag number and color
2. Date fish was caught
3. Species of fish
4. Length and Weight (close as possible)
5. Location of Catch (river — lake and specific area in miles from or to the nearest landmark)
6. Name and address of fisherman.

HOW TO USE THESE REGULATIONS

The regulations for each fishing district have been organized into five sections:

1. Standard, Daily and Possession Limits;
2. Fishing seasons;
3. Special regulations;
4. Bait;
5. Nets.

Fishing seasons are divided by Standard Season, Exceptions-Restrictive and Exceptions-Liberal.

We suggest that in reading these regulations you:

1. Acquaint yourself with the Statewide Standard Regulations on opposite side.
2. Locate on the map the area where you plan to fish. Note if there is any color (red, yellow, or pink) in the area and which fishing district you will be fishing in.
3. Turn the sheet over and find the appropriate district regulations, if there is no color on the map in the area where you intend to fish the **Standard Daily and Possession Limits plus Standard Fishing Seasons** for this district (along with the Standard Statewide Regulations) will tell all you have to know for regular fishing with a single line.
4. Scan the **Exceptions — Liberal** for the fishing district for any of the more liberal regulations you may want to take advantage of.

If the area where you plan to fish is flagged with red or yellow on the map, there are special restrictions which you must become aware of. These will be found in the **Exceptions — Restrictive** or **Special Regulations** for the district adjacent to the color bar for the color involved.

A water in one of the pink areas on the map is in either an Indian Reservation, National Park, or National Wildlife Refuge. You should ask the appropriate agency for a copy of its fishing regulations.

Yellowstone - non fee permit required.
Indian Res. Charge in addition to license

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A fishing license is a permit for lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by fishing regulations. This includes commercial whitefishing in which case the license must be validated by an authorized Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department employee. There is no charge for this validation.

Residents — Each resident 15 years and older must have a resident fishing license in order to fish. Residents 12 through 14 years of age must have a conservation license to fish. Residents under the age of 12 need no license to fish but must observe limits and all other fishing regulations.

Free fishing permits are available from heads of respective institutions for patients at Veterans' administration hospitals and for **residents** of state institutions other than the state penitentiary.

Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks must have a "Disabled Persons Conservation License" in order to fish.

Nonresidents — All nonresidents 15 years and older must have a fishing license to fish. No nonresident under the age of 15 years may fish in Montana without having obtained a fishing license unless the nonresident under the age of 15 years is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult.

A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

FISHING LICENSES

LICENSE FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE

RESIDENT LICENSES

Residency — in order to apply for a resident Montana hunting or fishing license one must be a legal resident of Montana for a period of six months immediately prior to making application.

Except for holders of Resident Sportsman Licenses, conservation licenses are prerequisite to purchase of fishing licenses.

Conservation License .... $ 2.00

Residents 12 through 14 years of age and residents 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish and hunt upland game birds other than turkeys.

Resident Disabled Persons Conservation License.

Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, may apply for an annual "disabled persons conservation license" which authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds other than turkeys .... $ 2.00

Resident Fishing License .... $ 8.00
Resident Sportsman's License .... $ 35.00
(includes Conservation, 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 black bear, game birds and fishing licenses)

Paddlefish Tags .... Two for $ 3.00
(needed for Yellowstone River) limit of two in 1984.

NONRESIDENT FISHING LICENSES

A Wildlife Conservation License is required before fishing licenses may be purchased. You may apply for other licenses at the same time you apply for a conservation license.

Nonresident Conservation License .... $ 2.00
(See "License Requirements", this page)

Nonresident Season Fishing License .... $ 30.00

Nonresident Temporary Fishing License (2 day) .... $ 6.00

Nonresident Paddlefish Tag .... Two for $ 3.00
(needed for Yellowstone River) limit of two in 1984

Nonresident Fish, Bird and Big Game License $300.00
(available from Helena, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks office only) includes an elk tag, deer "A" tag, black bear tag, authorizes hunting of game birds and fishing. Quota of 17,000.

STANDARD STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS

COLOR CODES

🟥 Closed or limited to fishing all year.

🟨 Dates, hours or limits more restrictive than general.

DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

When weighing and measuring fish to determine limits, fish may have entrails removed but must have their heads and tails attached to their bodies.

Daily limits shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. No person shall take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under district regulations.

Possession limit shall mean the number or pounds of fish which may be in one person's possession anytime in any form — fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved.

Refer to district regulations for respective daily and possession limits.

A person fishing on a water may possess only the limit allowed for that water.

SEASONS:

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

LURES AND BAIT:

Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man-made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or foods.

Sculpins may be used live for bait statewide, except in waters limited to artificial lures and in the Madison River between McAtee Bridge and Ennis Lake. Otherwise live fish may not be used for bait except as provided under district regulations.

Carp or goldfish may not be used in any form as fish bait. Other fish may be used dead as bait if they have their heads and entrails removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

Persons fishing in waters closed to the use of live fish for bait may not have live bait fish in their immediate possession.

CHECKING STATIONS:

Fishermen and hunters are required to stop at checking stations on their routes of travel to and from fishing and hunting areas.

FISHING HOURS:

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons except on Holter lake.

ICE FISHING SHELTERS:

Special regulations on ice fishing shelters apply in:

Bearpaw Lake	Georgetown Lake
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hauser Lake
Browns Lake (near Ovando)	Helena Valley Reservoir
Deadman's Basin Reservoir	Lake Frances
Echo Lake (near Anaconda)	Lake Helena

See ice fishing shelter regulations available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

GAME FISH:

All species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sandpike or sauger and walleye pike or yellow pike-perch); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike, pickerel and muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); all species of the genus Lota (burbot or ling); and the species Ictalurus punctatus (channel catfish).

MEANS OF TAKING:

Only a single line with hook or hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be in immediate control.

These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Setlines may be used as provided under district regulations. Setlines are lines that may be unattended. They may include poles and tipups.

A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus) for bait. Otherwise, use or possession of minnow seines, snares, or fish traps is unlawful except as provided under district regulations.

CLOSED WATERS:

All waters operated by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Water in which the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water supply lakes and streams and hazardous areas are closed as posted.

CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS:

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons thirteen (13) years of age and older.

BEAVER PONDS, IRRIGATION CANALS AND DITCHES:

Impoundments formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations as govern the streams. Man-made irrigation canals and ditches are open the year around unless shown otherwise under district regulations.

NATIONAL PARKS, INDIAN RESERVATIONS AND WILDLIFE REFUGES:

Certain waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special regulations or permits that apply to their individual areas. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the park, reservation or refuge involved.

USE OF BOATS:

The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. See Boating Regulations available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

SIZE OF HOLE FOR ICE FISHING:

The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches. This does not apply to waters open to fishing through the ice with spear or gig.

Minnows definately not
Sculpins might be close to the border

IT IS UNLAWFUL:

to transport or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any water;
to refuse to show one's license upon demand;
to loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person
to sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish and Game Commission regulations;
to leave or dump any dead animal; fish; garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted;
to use any carbide, lime, giant power, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any streams where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish;
to hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide;
to waste any part of game fish suitable for food.
It is unlawful to operate upon Montana waters a boat which:
is not properly licensed and numbered with registration card carried in boat;
is not carrying equipment required by the Montana Water Safety law (copies available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks)
does not have one serviceable, Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each passenger plus one type IV PFD in boats over 16 feet. Persons under 12 years old must wear PFD's when boat is in motion and is less than 26 feet long.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

(also see Standard Statewide Regulations)

STANDARD DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Unless otherwise specified, (see Special Regulations) the following limits are both daily and possession limits:
Each fisherman may take all of the following limits:

LIMIT 1.

Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling, and bull trout (Dolly Varden), (note special bull trout restrictions on portion of district listed below).

On Streams — Five (5) fish, only one (1) of which may exceed 14 inches.

Except: Clark Fork River from Milltown Dam to Idaho border where Limit 1 is five (5) fish only one (1) of which may exceed 16 inches

or

On Lakes — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish. Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit

except

Flathead Lake and Hungry Horse Reservoir where Limit 1 is five (5) fish daily and in possession. Either one (1) bull trout (Dolly Varden) and one (1) lake trout **or** two (2) lake trout and zero (0) bull trout may be included in the catch.

BULL TROUT SIZE AND CREEL LIMIT — FLATHEAD DRAINAGE

For Flathead Lake, Flathead River above Kerr Dam, Hungry Horse Reservoir, all streams of the North Fork, South Fork and Middle Fork drainages and the Swan River downstream from Bigfork Dam.

No more than one (1) bull trout (Dolly Varden) may be included in the daily catch. Bull trout kept shall be no less than eighteen (18) inches long with head and tail attached to body, except no size limit in South Fork Flathead River Drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to Wilderness boundary.

LIMIT 2.
Brook trout — Ten (10) pounds not to exceed twenty (20) fish

LIMIT 3.
Bass — Five (5) fish except Carpenter (Therriault) Lake — twenty (20)

LIMIT 4.
Northern pike — Fifteen (15) fish

LIMIT 5.
Salmon — Twenty (20) fish daily or in possession by angling or snagging where permitted except in:
Ashley, Little Bitterroot, Swan, Tally lakes — thirty-five (35) daily and seventy (70) in possession.
Flathead Lake, all streams in drainage north of lake, Swan River downstream from Big Fork Dam, Brenneman Slough, Whitefish Lake and Lake Mary Ronan — ten (10) fish daily and in possession. On Lake Mary Ronan during snagging season the limit shall be twenty (20) fish daily and in possession by angling or snagging.
Clearwater Drainage — Ten (10) fish except during snagging season when daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) and seventy (70) in possession.
Georgetown Lake and tributaries — No daily or possession limit.

LIMIT 6.
Whitefish — One hundred (100) fish daily and in possession including fish taken for sale

LIMIT 7.
Burbot (ling) — Five (5) fish daily and in possession
It shall be unlawful to take or possess any **sturgeon** of the genus Acipenser **(white strugeon)**

FISHING SEASONS
STANDARD SEASONS

Apply to all waters except those listed in Exceptions —Restrictive or Special Regulations; these waters are marked with color on map.

STREAMS — Open third Saturday in May through November.
LAKES — Open entire year.

EXCEPTIONS — RESTRICTIVE

(waters marked with color on map)

STREAMS IN FLATHEAD, KOOTENAI AND SWAN RIVER DRAINAGES.

Closed Entire Year:
Ashley Creek from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to its source
All tributaries to Ashley Lake
Crow Creek and its tributaries upstream of intake from Ronan water supply to its source
Donaldson Creek, tributary of Lake Mary Ronan
Elk Creek, tributary to Swan River upstream from bridge NE¼, Sec. 16, T20N, R17W to its source
Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding the natural lakes
Freeland Creek, tributary of Lake Mary Ronan
Haskell Creek and tributaries from Whitefish public water intake to its source
Hell Roaring Creek, water supply for Polson, and its lakes from outlet of lower lake to its source
Herrig Creek, tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake
Hot Springs Creek and its tributaries from Hot Springs public water supply intake to its source
Middle Fork Flathead River tributaries: Granite, Morrison, Lodgepole, Long creeks and their tributaries
North Fork Flathead River tributaries: Big Creek, Coal Creek and all their tributaries, Whale Creek and its tributaries downstream from Whale Creek Falls, Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek
O'Brien Creek from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth (¼) mile upstream as posted
Rogers Lake spawning inlet
South Fork of Flathead River downstream from Hungry Horse Dam to "Devil's Elbow" as posted

STREAMS IN CLARK FORK, BLACKFOOT AND BITTERROOT RIVER DRAINAGES:

Closed Entire Year:
Basin Creek from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to its source, including all reservoirs and tributaries
Rattlesnake Creek and tributary streams from Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water Company to to its source
Silver Creek upstream from Saltese water supply intake
Open July 1 through November — Stream tributary to Medicine Lake near Philipsburg

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

Closed Entire Year:
Cedar Creek impoundment (Columbia Falls water supply)
Libby Dam structure as posted and the buoyed area immediately upstream from the spillway
Fred Burr Lake (Philipsburg water supply)
Closed as posted from October 1 until spawn taking is completed — Hatchery Bay of Flathead Lake at Somers
Open third Saturday in May through September — Kilbrennan Lake
Open third Saturday in May through March 15 of following year — Lake Mary Ronan
Open December 1 through September of following year — Loon Lake tributary to Pipe Creek, 15 miles northwest of Libby
Open third Saturday in May through October and third Saturday in December through February of following year — Georgetown Lake and Echo Lake near Anaconda
Open July 1 through April — Medicine Lake near Philipsburg

EXCEPTIONS — LIBERAL

STREAMS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR
Ashley Creek below Smith Lake
Big Blackfoot River downstream from Scotty Brown bridge
Bitterroot River downstream from Florence Bridge
Clark Fork River downstream from Anaconda Company Settling Pond System Spillway
Clearwater River downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier
Flathead River downstream of Kerr Dam
Kootenai River
Little Bitterroot River downstream from its tunnel
Stillwater River between Upper and Lower Stillwater lakes
Whitefish River from Whitefish Lake to Montana State Highway 40 Bridge

EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON — Open December through March of following year — All streams except:
Waters closed entire year
Waters posted closed

COMMERCIAL WHITEFISH FISHING — Open third Saturday in May through March of the following year — for the catching of whitefish for commercial sale:
Bitterroot River
Blackfoot River
Clark Fork River, including mainstream impoundments
Flathead Lake and Flathead River from junction of North Fork and South Forks to Clark Fork
Kootenai River from Libby Dam to Idaho border

BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging nongame fish.

SNAGGING FOR SALMON
Open September 15 through November
Lake Mary Ronan
Open September 15 through December
all waters except:
Lake Mary Ronan
Flathead Lake, and all streams in drainage north of lake, Swan River below Big Fork Dam, Brenneman Slough, and Whitefish Lake which are closed entire year to snagging
Waters closed entire year

SPEAR FISHING — Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish with rubber- or spring-propelled spears in all waters open to fishing except:
Abbott Lake near Bigfork
Blanchard Lake near Whitefish
Echo Lake near Bigfork
Horseshoe Lake near Ferndale
Lake Blaine near Kalispell
Lake Mary Ronan
Loon Lake near Ferndale
Lower, Middle and Upper Thompson lakes
Murphy Lake near Fortine
Peterson Lake near Bigfork

Same lake

Open through the ice only — Northern pike and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig:
Blanchard Lake
Echo Lake near Bigfork
Lion Lake
Upper & Lower Stillwater Lakes

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

(waters marked with yellow on map)

ANACONDA SETTLING POND
All waters in Anaconda Company settling pond system near town of Warm Springs as posted, **May 25 through September for catch-and-release fishing. Artificial lures only.** See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.

BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS COMPLEX
All lakes and streams in the Blackfoot, South Fork Flathead and Middle Fork Flathead river drainages within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas.
Limit Number 1 — Three (3) fish (except bull trout) none of which may exceed 12 inches. Only one bull trout may be included in the three (3) fish limit and it must be over 18 inches.

except

Doctor, Flotilla, George, Koessler, Lena, Lick, Pendant, Sunburst, Terrace and Woodward lakes where the limit is ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish. Two fish may be taken regardless of weight limit.
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

PORTIONS OF CLARK FORK AND BITTERROOT RIVERS
Clark Fork River — From Anaconda Company settling pond system spillway to Perkins Lane Bridge. Bitterroot River — from Stevensville Bridge to Florence Bridge and one (1) mile downstream from Darby Bridge to Como Bridge. Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, bull trout (Dolly Varden). Five (5) fish per day under 14 inches OR four (4) fish under 14 inches and one (1) over 18 inches.
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

LIBBY DAM
Fishing from boats or other floating craft is prohibited in Kootenai River from Libby Dam approximately 500 yards downstream to David Thompson bridge as posted.

ROCK CREEK
Rock Creek near Clinton from mouth of Butte Cabin Creek to mouth of Big Hogback Creek. **Third Saturday in May through November.** Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and bull trout (Dolly Varden). **Catch and Release Only.**
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.
Rock Creek from its mouth to mouth of Butte Cabin Creek and from mouth of Big Hogback Creek to mouth of West Fork of Rock Creek. **Third Saturday in May through November, artificial lures only,** for persons 15 years and older. Fisherman 14 years and younger may use bait. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and bull trout (Dolly Varden). Three (3) fish per day, only one (1) of which may exceed 14 inches. This is both a daily and possession limit.
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing districts.

SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER
South Fork Flathead River from Meadow Creek bridge down to Spotted Bear footbridge
Third Saturday in May through November — catch and release for cutthroat trout only with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1. Brown trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) — five (5) fish only one of which may exceed 14 inches. No more than one (1) bull trout (Dolly Varden) may be included in the daily catch.
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

SWAN RIVER
Swan River from Ferndale bridge to mouth of Bear Creek
December 1 to third Saturday in May — catch and release with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) **catch and release only.**
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

THOMPSON RIVER
Thompson River from mouth of West Fork Thompson River to mouth of Deerhorn Creek
Third Saturday in May through November — catch and release with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) **catch and release only.**
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

WOODS LAKE
Entire year — catch and release with artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1 — Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout, grayling and bull trout (Dolly Varden) **catch and release only.**
Limits 2 Through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.

BAIT

(Use of Live Fish for Bait)

Sculpins (Cottus) are the only fish that may be used live as bait. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.

NETS

(Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.
The use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT

(also see Standard Statewide Regulations)

STANDARD DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Unless otherwise specified, (see Special Regulations) the following limits are both daily and possession limits.
Each fisherman may take all of the following limits:

LIMIT 1.
Brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, golden trout, lake trout and grayling.
On Streams — Five (5) fish, only one (1) of which may exceed 18 inches, except for Warm Springs Creek, near Lewistown, and Little Bighorn River where the limit is ten (10) fish. On the Madison River only one of the five (5) fish may be a grayling. In the Big Hole River drainage only one of the five (5) fish may be a grayling which must be over 13 inches.

or

On Lakes — Ten (10) pounds and one (1) fish not to exceed ten (10) fish except in Clark Canyon Reservoir and Harrison Reservoir where the limit is five (5) fish. Two (2) fish may be taken regardless of weight limit.

LIMIT 2.
Brook trout — Ten (10) pounds not to exceed twenty (20) fish.

LIMIT 3.
Bass, sauger, walleye — Five (5) fish in any combination.

LIMIT 4.
Northern pike — Five (5) fish.

LIMIT 5.
Salmon — Ten (10) fish except during snagging season when daily limit shall be thirty-five (35) and seventy (70) in possession.

LIMIT 6.
Whitefish — One hundred (100) fish daily and in possession including those taken for sale.
There is no number limit on **catfish, burbot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish.**

FISHING SEASONS
STANDARD SEASONS

Apply to all waters except those listed in Exceptions —Restrictive or Special Regulations; these waters are marked with color on map.

Streams — Open third Saturday in May through November.
Lakes — Open entire year.

Between Canyon Ferry & Hauser it is considered lake

EXCEPTIONS — RESTRICTIVE

(waters marked with color on map)

STREAMS

Closed Entire Year
Missouri River immediately downstream of Canyon Ferry Dam as posted
Missouri River — fishing from Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the Dam

Central Fishing District Continued

Midvale Creek and Intake Reservoir from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to Glacier Park boundary
O'Brien Creek upstream of Neihart public water intake
Toston Dam structure as posted.
Willow Creek and its tributaries from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to its source
The following streams are **closed from city water supply intake to a point one thousand (1,000) feet upstream as posted:**
Bozeman (Sourdough), near Bozeman
Indian Creek near Sheridan
Lyman Creek near Bozeman
Middle Fork Hyalite near Bozeman
Rattlesnake Creek near Dillon
West Fork of Rock Creek at Red Lodge
Open third Saturday in July through November — East Fork and West Fork of Hyalite Creek

Open third Saturday in June through November:
Norwegian Creek
South Willow Creek and North Willow Creek downstream from the Highway 287 bridges at Harrison to Willow Creek Reservoir (also see restriction below on Willow Creek Arm of Harrison Lake).
Open third Saturday in May through September — Boulder River from its mouth (near Cardwell) upstream approximately four airline miles to the bridge in T2N, R3W, S24.
Open August 1 through November:
Lightning Creek

LAKES AND RESERVOIRS

Closed Entire Year:
A portion of Lake Frances around Conrad water supply outlet as posted
Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted.
Open third Saturday in May through February of following year:
Wade Lake (Madison County)
Willow Creek Arm of Harrison Reservoir as posted (also, see restrictions above on North and South Willow creeks)
Open third Saturday in June through November:
Goose Lake (Madison County)
Hidden Lake (Madison County)
Otter Lake (Madison County)
Open second Saturday in June through February of following year:
Eyraud (Arod) Lakes
Closed between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time or Daylight Savings Time, whichever is in effect:
Holter Reservoir

EXCEPTIONS LIBERAL

STREAMS OPEN ENTIRE YEAR
Alder Gulch Creek and Dredge Ponds from the mouth to Virginia City
Beaverhead River downstream of Pipeorgan Bridge
Belt Creek downstream of bridge at Riceville
Big Spring Creek (Main Stem) Fergus Co.
Bighorn River
Bluewater Creek
Boulder River (Main Stem) Park and Sweet Grass Co.
Clarks Fork Yellowstone River
Cut Bank Creek downstream of Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary
Dearborn River downstream from bridge on Highway 434
East Gallatin River downstream from mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Gallatin River
Jefferson River
Little Bighorn River
Madison River from Hebgen Dam to Varney Bridge and downstream of Ennis Lake
Marias River
Mill Creek in Madison Co.
Missouri River
Red Lodge Creek downstream from Cooney Dam
Rock Creek (Main Stem) Carbon Co.
Ruby River downstream from Ruby Dam
Smith River downstream from the confluence of North and South Forks Smith River
Stillwater River (Main Stem) Stillwater Co.
Sun River downstream from Gibson Dam
Teton River downstream from U.S. Highway 89
Warm Springs Creek in Fergus Co.
Yellowstone River
Open third Saturday in May through February of the following year:
Madison River from Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake
Open December 1 to third Saturday in May — for catch-and-release fishing only, artificial lures only; see "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Armstrong Spring Creek
Poindexter Slough

EXTENDED WHITEFISH SEASON — Open December 1 to the third Saturday in May:
Big Hole River
North Fork Big Hole River
Red Rock River downstream from Lima Reservoir
Steel Creek
Yellowstone River drainage, all waters

COMMERCIAL WHITEFISH FISHING — Open entire year for the catching of whitefish for commercial sale:
Missouri River from Holter Dam to Black Eagle Dam
Yellowstone River

OPEN YEAR-AROUND FOR BROOK TROUT — Tributaries of Big Hole River upstream from Divide Dam and Big Hole River and tributaries upstream from bridge at Wisdom.

BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of nongame fish.

SNAGGING FOR SALMON — Open September 1 through December:
Ackley Lake
Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir
Pishkun Reservoir

SETLINE FISHING — Anglers may use up to six (6) unattended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in the following waters, each overnight setline must be clearly marked with owners name and address
Open entire year:
Clarks Fork Yellowstone River downstream of bridge at Bridger
Lake Frances, except portion closed as posted
Little Bighorn River
Marias River
Pishkun Reservoir
Split Rock Lake
Yellowstone River downstream of mouth of Clarks Fork
Open through the ice only:
Canyon Ferry Reservoir
Hauser Lake
Helena Valley Reservoir
Holter Reservoir — setline fishing prohibited from 12 midnight to 5 a.m.
Lake Helena
Open second Saturday in June through February of following year — Eyraud (Arod) Lakes.

SPEAR FISHING — Persons swimming or submerged may take certain fish with rubber- or spring-propelled spears in waters open to fishing as follows:
Nongame fish and burbot (ling) — All waters open to fishing
Five (5) whitefish daily — Missouri River between bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek.
Open December 1 through February of following year — Northern pike, and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from Eyraud (Arod) Lakes.
Open through the ice only — Northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling), and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from:
Lake Frances except portion closed as posted
Pishkun Reservoir
Split Rock Lake

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

(waters marked with yellow on map)

CHILDREN'S FISHING WATERS
Open as posted to persons twelve (12) years of age and under the entire year:
Elk Creek (South Fork Sun River) from Auchard Bridge to Boone Bridge in the town of Augusta
Fairgrounds Pond, Helena (yellow color also applies to Spring Meadow Lake)
Spring Creek from Milwaukee Bridge to Charles Fellows fence below Choteau

BIG HOLE RIVER
Big Hole River from Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge — **Third Saturday in May through November.** Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit No. 1 — Daily and Possession Limit
Trout — Three (3) fish per day under 13 inches and one (1) fish per day over 22 inches.
Grayling — one (1) fish per day and it must be over 13 inches.
Limits 2 through 6 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

BIGHORN RIVER
Afterbay Dam to I-90 at Hardin:
Limit No. 1 — five (5) trout only one (1) of which may be over 18 inches, and only one (1) of which may be a rainbow.
Limits 2 through 6 are the same as listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.
ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY (See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations) from cable crossing the river approximately 600 feet downstream from Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access area. The operation of any motor, or engine of any description on any vessel is prohibited from Bighorn River Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access area except for official patrol, search and rescue, or for scientific purposes.

GALLATIN RIVER
Gallatin River from Yellowstone National Park boundary to its confluence with East Gallatin River shall be closed to fishing from boats.

MADISON RIVER DRAINAGE
Madison River from Quake Lake outlet to McAtee Bridge — catch-and-release fishing only for trout and grayling. Artificial lures only. See "Lures and Bait" under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Madison River from McAtee Bridge to Ennis Lake — sculpins not allowed for bait
Limit No. 1 — Daily and Possession Limit
Trout and grayling — Five (5) fish per day, only one (1) of which may exceed 18 inches, and only one (1) of which may be a rainbow and only one (1) fish may be a grayling.
Limits 2 through 6 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.
Darlington Ditch (Darlinton Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Logan) — **Catch-and-release fishing only for trout and grayling.** Artificial lures only.
Madison River from Earthquake Lake outlet to Lyon Bridge (New West Fork Madison River Bridge) and from McAtee Bridge to Varney Bridge shall be **closed to fishing from boats.**

SILVER CREEK — Silver Creek in Lewis and Clark County is open to **catch and release fishing only** from Gold Sil Mine, as posted, to Green Meadow Drive.

SPRING MEADOW LAKE (yellow color also applies to Fairgrounds Pond, Helena)
One (1) trout or bass.
Other species — no limit
Closed to the use of any motor propelled water craft except for official patrol, search and rescue, or for scientific purposes.

SUN RIVER DRAINAGE (STREAMS AND LAKES) UPSTREAM FROM GIBSON RESERVOIR
Limit No. 1 — Catch and release only for grayling. Rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout, three (3) fish none of which may be over 12 inches.

except

Wood Lake where the limit will be ten (10) fish.
Limits 2 through 6 are the same as listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER
Yellowstone National Park boundary to Emigrant Bridge
Limit No. 1 — Rainbow or brown trout five (5) fish with only one (1) over 18 inches. Catch and release only for cutthroat trout.
Limits 2 through 7 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.
Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge. **Artificial lures only** (See "Lures and Bait") under Standard Statewide Regulations.
Limit Number 1 — Daily and Possession Limit brown and rainbow trout — four (4) fish per day under 13 inches and one (1) fish per day over 22 inches. Catch and release only for cutthroat trout. Artificial lures only.
Limits 2 through 5 are the same as those listed under Daily and Possession limits for the rest of the fishing district.
Limit 6 — Whitefish — one hundred (100) fish daily and in possession including those taken for sale. Whitefishing, with bait will be allowed December 1 through third Saturday in May.

BAIT

(Use of Live Fish for Bait)

The use of sculpins (Cottus) is allowed in all waters except Madison River between McAtee Bridge and Ennis Lake. Other nongame fish (except carp, goldfish or rainbow smelt) may be used in:
Bighorn Lake and its Afterbay Reservoir
Bighorn River (except portion with artificial lures only, see Special Regulations)
Clarks Fork Yellowstone River downstream from bridge at Bridger
Little Bighorn River from its mouth to mouth of Lodge Grass Creek
Marias River
Muddy Creek drainage near Vaughn in all streams and drainage canals
Musselshell River downstream from irrigation diversion near Cushman
Yellowstone River downstream from mouth of Clarks Fork

NETS

(Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.
In waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:
1. With seines not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or
2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.
A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

See Special Catch & Release on Bighorn R. 1/20/84

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT

(also see Standard Statewide Regulations)

STANDARD DAILY AND POSSESSION LIMITS

Unless otherwise specified, (see Special Regulations) the following limits are both daily and possession limits.
Each fisherman may take all of the following limits:

LIMIT 1.
Salmon, grayling and whitefish and all trout, except lake trout — ten (10) fish in any combination.

LIMIT 2.
Lake trout — five (5) fish

LIMIT 3.
Walleye and sauger — ten (10) fish in any combination, except for a portion of Fort Peck Reservoir — see Special Regulations

LIMIT 4.
Northern pike — five (5) fish, except Nelson Reservoir where there will be no number limit

LIMIT 5.
Bass (largemouth and smallmouth) — ten (10) fish in any combination

LIMIT 6.
Paddlefish — one (1) fish daily and two (2) fish in possession, except for Yellowstone River — see Special Regulations below
There is no number limit on **catfish, burot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish**

Fish Weight Limits (Sturgeon):
The maximum weight sturgeons (genus Scaphirhynchus) which may be taken is 16 pounds.

FISHING SEASONS
STANDARD SEASONS

(Apply to all waters except those listed in **Exceptions —Restrictive** or **Special Regulations;** these waters are marked with color on map.)
All waters open entire year

EXCEPTIONS — RESTRICTIVE

(waters marked with color on map)

Closed entire year:
Giant Springs at Great Falls that portion enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work
Missouri River downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted
Missouri River immediately downstream from Morony Dam as posted
Wind Creek (Blaine County) from Clear Creek road crossing to its source, excluding Ross Reservoir
Closed May 1 through July 8 to fishing or snagging from boats:
Yellowstone River from Intake Diversion to approximately one-quarter (¼) mile downstream as posted. Also see Special Regulations.
Open third Saturday in May through November:
Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in Bearpaw Mountains
Open February through October:
Rush Hall Pond (Fallon County)

EXCEPTIONS — LIBERAL

BOW AND ARROW AND SNAGGING — All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish except a portion of Yellowstone River, see **Special Regulations.**

SETLINE FISHING — Anglers may use up to six (6) unattended setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in following waters:
Open Entire Year:
Arapooish Pond near Hardin
Beaver Creek in Valley and Phillips counties
Big Muddy Creek
Ester Reservoir
a portion of Fort Peck Reservoir (see Special Regulations)

Frenchman Creek (excluding Frenchman Reservoir)
Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir) — see note below
Lone Tree Creek and its impoundments in Valley Co.
Marias River
Milk River and its impoundments (including Fresno Reservoir)
Missouri River downstream from Morony Dam (excluding river and dredge cuts between Fort Peck Dam and mouth of Milk River)
Musselshell River
Nelson Reservoir (see note below)
Poplar River
Redwater River
Teton River
All streams in Yellowstone River Drainage, (not including Tongue River Reservoir)
Note: In Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir) each overnight setline must be clearly marked with owner's name and address. In Nelson Reservoir each setline must be clearly marked with owners name, address and setlines may not be suspended from free-floating devices such as jugs, however, floats or bobbers attached to poles or bank lines are allowed.

Open through the ice only —
All lakes and reservoirs.
Open April 1 through November —
Anglers may use up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with not more than two (2) hooks per line in:
The Missouri River and dredge cuts (including Dredge Cut Trout Pond) from Fort Peck Dam to mouth of Milk River. These lines shall not be suspended from free-floating devices such as jugs. However, floats or bobbers attached to poles or bank lines are allowed.

SPEAR FISHING — Persons swimming or submerged may take certain fish with rubber- or spring-propelled spears in waters open to fishing as follows:
Nongame fish and burbot (ling) — All waters open to fishing.
Game fish — Fort Peck, Nelson, and Tongue River reservoirs.

Open through the ice only — northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling), and nongame fish may be taken by spear or gig from all waters open to fishing.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

(waters marked with yellow on map)

FORT PECK RESERVOIR
Fort Peck Reservoir downstream from a line between Haxby Point and number 6 navigation sign at South Fork Duck Creek including Big Dry Arm.
Limit 3. Walleye and sauger — five (5) fish daily and in possession in any combination.
Limits 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 are the same as listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.
Anglers may use up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with not more than two (2) hooks per line from April 1 through November. These lines shall not be suspended from free-floating devices such as jugs; however, floats or bobbers attached to poles or bank lines are allowed.
In remainder of reservoir the daily and possession limit for walleye and sauger shall be ten (10) fish in any combination and six (6) setlines (including jugs) are allowed.

MISSOURI RIVER
Missouri River from Fort Peck Dam to Milk River:
Limit 1. Rainbow trout — two (2) fish daily and in possession. Salmon, grayling, whitefish and all trout except rainbow trout and lake trout — ten (10) fish in any combination.
Limits 2 through 6 are the same as listed under Daily and Possession Limits for the rest of the fishing district.

YELLOWSTONE RIVER
Yellowstone River downstream from mouth of Bighorn River:
From May 1 through July 8 snagging of paddlefish shall be allowed and the snagging of nongame fish prohibited.
Paddlefish limit is two (2) per year: Any paddlefish caught must be tagged immediately and counted in this limit. Two (2) tags per licensed angler are available for $3 from all Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters and from several license dealers in Eastern Montana. See tagging instructions available at those locations.
Also see Exceptions Restrictive

BAIT

(Use of Live Fish for Bait)

The use of sculpins (Cottus) is allowed in all waters. Other nongame fish (except carp, goldfish or rainbow smelt) may be used in:
Missouri River Drainage
Bainville Railroad Ponds in Roosevelt County
Cole Ponds in Phillips County
Dredge Cut Trout Pond
Engstrom Reservoir in Sheridan County
Ester Reservoir in Phillips County
Flat Lake in McCone County
Fort Peck Reservoir
Frenchman Reservoir in Phillips County
Killenbeck Reservoir in Daniels County
Kuester Reservoir in Richland County
Little Warm Reservoir in Phillips County
Lone Tree Creek impoundments in Valley Co.
McChesney Reservoir in Phillips County
Milk River and its impoundments below Fresno Res.
Nelson Reservoir in Phillips County
Petrolia Reservoir
Raymond Reservoir in Sheridan County
Sam Lee Reservoir in Dawson County
Tiber Reservoir
Whitetail Reservoir in Daniels County
All streams and rivers except:
Milk River and its tributaries above Fresno Reservoir,
Missouri River upstream from Morony Dam.
Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in Bearpaw Mountains,

Yellowstone River Drainage
Arapooish Pond near Hardin
Baker Lake in Fallon County
Castle Rock Lake in Rosebud County
Coldwell's Reservoir in Garfield County
Lame Steer Reservoir in Wibaux County
Lindsay Reservoir in Dawson County
South Sandstone Reservoir in Fallon County
Spotted Eagle Pond in Custer County
Tauck's Reservoir in Carter County
Tongue River Reservoir
all streams and rivers

NETS

(Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.
A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).
Hoop Nets — Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used to take nongame fish, catfish, burbot (ling), and sturgeon in Yellowstone River downstream from mouth of Bighorn River (except for approximately two hundred (200) yards below all irrigation diversion dams), Milk River downstream from Highway 2 bridge below Dodson Dam except from Vandalia Dam to a point one-quarter (¼) mile downstream, and in Missouri River below mouth of Milk River. Each net must be clearly marked with owner's name and address.
Minnow Seines and Traps — In all waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:
1. With a seine not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or
2. With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.